



CLEP[®]

Official Study Guide

16th Edition

Introductory Sociology

College-Level Examination Program[®]

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Introductory Sociology

Description of the Examination

The Introductory Sociology examination is designed to assess an individual's knowledge of the material typically presented in a one-semester introductory sociology course at most colleges and universities. The examination emphasizes basic facts and concepts as well as general theoretical approaches used by sociologists. Highly specialized knowledge of the subject and the methodology of the discipline is not required or measured by the test content.

The examination contains 100 questions to be answered in 90 minutes. Some of these are pretest questions that will not be scored. Any time candidates spend on tutorials and providing personal information is in addition to the actual testing time.

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the test require candidates to demonstrate the following abilities; some questions may require more than one of these abilities.

- Identification of specific names, facts, and concepts from sociological literature
- Understanding of relationships between concepts, empirical generalizations, and theoretical propositions of sociology
- Understanding of the methods by which sociological relationships are established
- Application of concepts, propositions, and methods to hypothetical situations
- Interpretation of tables and charts

The subject matter of the Introductory Sociology examination is drawn from the following topics. The percentages next to the main topics indicate the approximate percentages of exam questions on those topics.

20% Institutions

Economic
Educational
Family
Medical
Political
Religious

15% Social patterns

Community
Demography
Human ecology
Rural/urban patterns

20% Social processes

Collective behavior and social movements
Culture
Deviance and social control
Groups and organizations
Social change
Social interaction
Socialization

30% Social stratification (process and structure)

Aging
Power and social inequality
Professions and occupations
Race and ethnic relations
Sex and gender roles
Social class
Social mobility

15% The sociological perspective

History of sociology
Methods
Sociological theory

Sample Test Questions

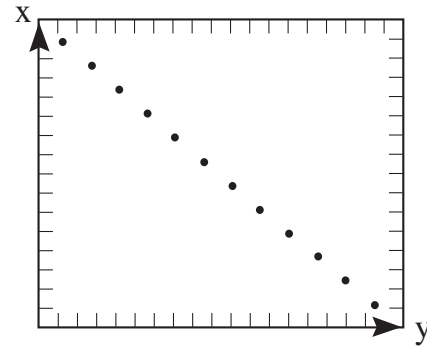
The following questions are provided to give an indication of the types of questions that appear on the Introductory Sociology Examination. CLEP examinations are designed so that average students completing a course in the subject can usually answer about half the questions correctly.

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.

1. All of the following are examples of voluntary associations EXCEPT the
 - (A) Republican Party
 - (B) League of Women Voters
 - (C) Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - (D) First Baptist Church of Atlanta
 - (E) Little League Baseball Association

2. A sex ratio of 120 means that in a population there are
 - (A) 120 more males than females
 - (B) 120 more females than males
 - (C) 120 males for every 100 females
 - (D) 120 females for every 100 males
 - (E) 12% more men than women

3. Industrialization is most likely to reduce the importance of which of the following functions of the family?
 - (A) Economic production
 - (B) Care of young children
 - (C) Regulation of sexual behavior
 - (D) Socialization of the individual
 - (E) Social control



4. Which of the following best describes the relationship between x and y on the scattergram above?
 - (A) A perfect positive correlation
 - (B) A perfect negative correlation
 - (C) A perfect curvilinear correlation
 - (D) A low negative correlation
 - (E) A correlation of zero

5. The process by which an individual learns how to live in his or her social surroundings is known as
 - (A) amalgamation
 - (B) association
 - (C) collective behavior
 - (D) socialization
 - (E) innovation

6. Which of the following can properly be considered norms?
 - I. Laws
 - II. Folkways
 - III. Mores
 - (A) I only
 - (B) III only
 - (C) I and II only
 - (D) II and III only
 - (E) I, II, and III

7. Which of the following theorists argued that class conflict was inevitable in a capitalistic society and would result in revolution?

(A) C. Wright Mills
(B) Karl Marx
(C) Émile Durkheim
(D) Max Weber
(E) Karl Mannheim
8. Which of the following relies most heavily on sampling methods?

(A) Small group experiment
(B) Laboratory experiment
(C) Participant observation
(D) Survey
(E) Case study
9. Which of the following is NOT characteristic of the Chicago School of Sociology?

(A) They studied urban neighborhoods in the city of Chicago.
(B) They were influenced by Herbert Spencer and Émile Durkheim.
(C) They used ethnography and field methods in their research.
(D) Talcott Parsons was a proponent of the school.
(E) They were most influential during the twentieth century.
10. Which of the following allows human beings to adapt to diverse physical environments?

(A) instinct
(B) heredity
(C) culture
(D) stratification
(E) ethnocentrism
11. All of the following are properties of primary groups EXCEPT:

(A) They are important sources of social support.
(B) They are almost always ethnocentric.
(C) They are significant in their influence on personality growth.
(D) They tend to inhibit the expression of personality.
(E) They are frequently characterized by face-to-face relationships.
12. According to Émile Durkheim, a society that lacks clear-cut norms to govern aspirations and moral conduct is characterized by

(A) rationalism
(B) altruism
(C) egoism
(D) secularism
(E) anomie
13. The process by which an immigrant or an ethnic minority is absorbed socially into a receiving society is called

(A) assimilation
(B) accommodation
(C) cooperation
(D) interaction
(E) equilibrium
14. The term “sociology” was coined by its founder, the nineteenth-century positivist

(A) Émile Durkheim
(B) Auguste Comte
(C) Max Weber
(D) Harriet Martineau
(E) George Herbert Mead

15. According to Émile Durkheim, the more homogeneous a group the greater its
 - (A) organic solidarity
 - (B) mechanical solidarity
 - (C) functional differentiation
 - (D) co-optation
 - (E) stratification
16. Demographic patterns have clearly demonstrated that more males than females are born in
 - (A) technologically developing countries only
 - (B) technologically developed countries only
 - (C) virtually every known human society
 - (D) highly urbanized countries only
 - (E) countries with high nutritional standards only
17. Max Weber's three dimensions of social stratification are which of the following?
 - (A) Class, politics, education
 - (B) Prestige, politics, occupation
 - (C) Residence, occupation, religion
 - (D) Status, class, power
 - (E) Status, religion, prestige
18. The term "SMSA" used in the United States census refers to a
 - (A) summary of many small areas
 - (B) statistical index
 - (C) concept used in population sampling
 - (D) megalopolis
 - (E) standard metropolitan statistical area
19. In order for an occupation to be considered a profession by a sociologist, it must be an occupation that
 - (A) is based on abstract knowledge and a body of specialized information
 - (B) has high public visibility in the community
 - (C) requires training from a specialized school rather than from a university
 - (D) serves government and industry as well as individuals
 - (E) is a full-time position with a regular salary
20. In the study of social class, the sociologist would be LEAST likely to focus on
 - (A) power
 - (B) social mobility
 - (C) style of life
 - (D) motivation
 - (E) occupational status
21. An example of a folkway in American society is
 - (A) joining a religious cult
 - (B) eating a sandwich for lunch
 - (C) not paying income taxes on time
 - (D) stopping for a red light
 - (E) being fined for jaywalking
22. Personality formation and the learning of social roles take place
 - (A) primarily in childhood
 - (B) mainly in adolescence
 - (C) mainly in early adulthood
 - (D) mainly through the reproductive years
 - (E) throughout the life cycle

23. According to the United States Bureau of the Census, the fastest-growing household type since the 1980's has been the
 - (A) traditional nuclear family
 - (B) extended family
 - (C) single person
 - (D) couple without children
 - (E) family with three or more children
24. A school system that teaches children of different ethnic groups in their own language and about their own particular ethnic heritage illustrates a policy of
 - (A) structural assimilation
 - (B) cultural assimilation
 - (C) accommodation
 - (D) rationalization
 - (E) ethnocentrism
25. Max Weber linked the emergence of capitalism to the
 - (A) Calvinist doctrine of predestination
 - (B) Catholic monks' belief in asceticism
 - (C) Protestants' desire for material luxuries
 - (D) increasing power of the nobility in medieval Europe
 - (E) Hindu belief in reincarnation
26. The economy of postindustrial United States of America is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT
 - (A) computer-facilitated automation
 - (B) relocation of manufacturing plants to less-developed countries
 - (C) international competition in the manufacturing sector of the economy
 - (D) increasing numbers of service compared to manufacturing jobs
 - (E) increased job security due to globalization
27. Which statement about political participation in the United States is true?
 - (A) Almost everyone of voting age in the United States is registered to vote.
 - (B) Voter turnout in the United States is lower than in most European nations.
 - (C) Voter turnout has increased substantially in the last twenty years.
 - (D) People of higher social class tend to participate less in voting than lower social classes.
 - (E) Younger adults are more likely to vote than those over 65.
28. Which of the following is defined as an organized sphere of social life, or societal subsystem, designed to support important values and to meet human needs?
 - (A) Social structure
 - (B) Social organization
 - (C) Social institution
 - (D) Social culture
 - (E) Economic corporation
29. Most of the funding for public schools in the United States comes from
 - (A) lottery revenues
 - (B) state income taxes
 - (C) local sales taxes
 - (D) local income taxes
 - (E) local property taxes
30. According to Max Weber, authority derived from the understanding that individuals have clearly defined rights and duties to uphold and that they implement rules and procedures impersonally is
 - (A) traditional authority
 - (B) charismatic authority
 - (C) legal-rational authority
 - (D) coercion
 - (E) persuasion

31. Raw materials are processed and converted into finished goods in which sector of the economy?
(A) Agricultural
(B) Industrial
(C) Public
(D) Service
(E) Information
32. The economic growth of the 1980's and 1990's resulted in
(A) a growth in the gap between the rich and poor
(B) a narrowing of the gap between the rich and poor
(C) no change in the gap between the rich and poor
(D) a growth in the economic gap between men and women
(E) no change in the economic gap between men and women
33. In the United States, approximately what percentage of the population lives below the poverty line?
(A) 3%
(B) 7%
(C) 13%
(D) 19%
(E) 23%
34. Which of the following statements is true about those living below the poverty line in the United States?
(A) Approximately 40 percent are children.
(B) The majority are African American.
(C) Most could find work.
(D) The families are more likely to live in the northeast than in other regions of the country.
(E) The majority of the householders are single mothers with children.
35. Which of the following made up the largest number of immigrants to the United States in the 1990's?
(A) Mexicans
(B) Chinese
(C) Italians
(D) Canadians
(E) Russians
36. Compared to the United States population in general, Asian Americans have
(A) larger proportions of their populations in poverty
(B) lower median family incomes
(C) a higher level of formal educational achievement
(D) fewer ties to their family's country of origin
(E) a lower proportion of first-generation immigrants
37. In the world's economic system, which of the following is true about the relationship between high-income countries and low-income countries?
(A) High-income countries depend on low-income countries to purchase natural resources from them.
(B) High-income countries build manufacturing plants in low-income countries to obtain cheap labor.
(C) High-income countries control the governments of most low-income countries by military force and threats of war.
(D) High-income countries are more likely than low-income countries to have an agriculturally-based economy.
(E) High-income countries have less diversified sources of income.

38. Sociological studies of gender socialization show that
- (A) girls' games are more likely than boys' games to encourage assertive behaviors
 - (B) girls' games are more likely than boys' games to emphasize strict observance of rules
 - (C) girls are more likely than boys to learn to suppress emotions of sadness
 - (D) girls are more likely to engage in competitive play and boys in cooperative play
 - (E) girls are less likely than boys to receive attention from teachers
39. The increase in prejudice that sometimes resulted from court-ordered desegregation in public schools is a
- (A) manifest function of desegregation
 - (B) latent dysfunction of desegregation
 - (C) functional alternative to desegregation
 - (D) secondary deviant of desegregation
 - (E) rational exchange for desegregation
40. The practice of judging another culture by the standards of one's own culture is called
- (A) ethnocentrism
 - (B) cultural relativism
 - (C) cultural integration
 - (D) transference
 - (E) multiculturalism
41. In *Gesellschaft*, people are more likely than in *Gemeinschaft* to
- (A) have frequent face-to-face contact with those they know
 - (B) see others as a means of advancing their own individual goals
 - (C) be united by primary group bonds
 - (D) have altruistic concerns for others
 - (E) be tradition-directed
42. Demographic transition theory explains population changes by
- (A) connecting them exclusively to changes in the food supply
 - (B) linking population changes to technological development
 - (C) focusing on the migration of people in and out of specified territories
 - (D) tying population growth to changes in the sex ratio
 - (E) referring to a culture's religious attitudes
43. Which theory assumes that deviance occurs among individuals who are blocked from achieving socially approved goals by legitimate means?
- (A) Social control theory
 - (B) Labeling theory
 - (C) Merton's anomie theory
 - (D) Differential association theory
 - (E) Cultural transmission theory
44. Sandra is female, she is African American, and she is sixteen years of age. You have just been told about three of Sandra's
- (A) role sets
 - (B) cultural roles
 - (C) achieved statuses
 - (D) ascribed statuses
 - (E) mobility aspirations
45. Cooley called a person's self-conception based on the responses of others
- (A) the divided self
 - (B) self-esteem
 - (C) the concrete operational stage
 - (D) the looking-glass self
 - (E) the "I" and "me"

46. The philosopher Thomas Hobbes believed that social order developed out of the
- (A) recognition of the transcendent power of God
 - (B) biological need for humans to reproduce
 - (C) desire to escape a state of continuous social conflict
 - (D) discovery of agriculture
 - (E) need to distribute scarce resources fairly
47. Max Weber's principle of *verstehen* was meant to
- (A) explain the subjective beliefs that motivate people to act
 - (B) determine how society is dysfunctionally organized
 - (C) focus on the inequality in society
 - (D) search for the social structures that fulfill people's needs
 - (E) identify the patterns of exchange among individuals or groups
48. According to sociological terminology, an analysis of the amount of violence in mass media, such as television shows, would be which of the following?
- (A) A content analysis
 - (B) A secondary analysis
 - (C) A quasi-experiment
 - (D) A limited-participant observation
 - (E) An ethnographic interview
49. Which of the following states has the greatest number of physicians per 100,000 people?
- (A) Texas
 - (B) Massachusetts
 - (C) California
 - (D) Virginia
 - (E) Florida
50. In the past 30 years, the infant mortality rate in the United States has
- (A) remained about the same as in other industrialized countries
 - (B) declined for Black people but not for White people
 - (C) declined among White people, while increasing among Black people
 - (D) declined among White people, while remaining stable among Black people
 - (E) declined among both Black people and White people, while remaining twice as high among Black people
51. In the United States, semiskilled positions held primarily by women, such as waitperson, cashier, and receptionist, are known as
- (A) blue-collar occupations
 - (B) pink-collar occupations
 - (C) white-collar occupations
 - (D) nonpatriarchal occupations
 - (E) matriarchal occupations
52. Tamara worked as a waitress for five years after high school before she went to college. After college Tamara got a job as a sales representative for a pharmaceutical company. Tamara has experienced which of the following types of mobility?
- (A) Intergenerational
 - (B) Intragenerational
 - (C) Unilateral
 - (D) Horizontal
 - (E) Structural

53. The concept of “glass ceiling” affecting women in the workforce is best illustrated by which of the following?
- (A) The instability of female-dominated jobs
 - (B) The pay inequity between men and women for comparable jobs
 - (C) The breakdown of gender stereotypes in the job market
 - (D) The instability of marriages for women who are successful in the workforce
 - (E) The barriers that limit career advancement for women
54. Which of the following statements is most accurate regarding patriarchy?
- (A) It is a form of political organization where the state assumes paternal responsibility for citizens.
 - (B) It is a form of social organization in which one’s kinship lineage is traced through the family of the mother.
 - (C) It is a form of social organization in which males control most formal and informal power.
 - (D) It is found only in those societies that practice polyandry.
 - (E) It is not found in those societies that practice polygyny.

Study Resources

Most textbooks used in college-level introductory sociology courses cover the topics in the outline given earlier, but the approaches to certain topics and the emphasis given to them may differ. To prepare for the Introductory Sociology exam, it is advisable to study one or more college textbooks, which can be found in most college bookstores. When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the “Knowledge and Skills Required” for this test.

As you read, take notes that address the following issues, which are fundamental to most questions that appear on the test:

- What is society? What is culture? What is common to all societies, and what is characteristic of American society?
- What are other basic concepts in sociology that help to describe human nature, human interaction, and the collective behavior of groups, organizations, institutions, and societies?
- What methods do sociologists use to study, describe, analyze, and observe human behavior?

Additional suggestions for preparing for CLEP exams are given in “Preparing to Take CLEP Examinations.”

Answer Key

1.	C	28.	C
2.	C	29.	E
3.	A	30.	C
4.	B	31.	B
5.	D	32.	A
6.	E	33.	C
7.	B	34.	A
8.	D	35.	A
9.	D	36.	C
10.	C	37.	B
11.	D	38.	E
12.	E	39.	B
13.	A	40.	A
14.	B	41.	B
15.	B	42.	B
16.	C	43.	C
17.	D	44.	D
18.	E	45.	D
19.	A	46.	C
20.	D	47.	A
21.	B	48.	A
22.	E	49.	B
23.	C	50.	E
24.	C	51.	B
25.	A	52.	B
26.	E	53.	E
27.	B	54.	C